



INDIANA CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Community Outreach Efforts

June 1, 2006: Tavis Smiley (Covenant with Black America)

In continued efforts to collaborate with faith-based entities in their efforts in addressing DMC, staff of ICJI attended the Covenant with Black America at Light of the World Christian Church hosted by Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin Jr. The assembly was filled with regular members of the church as well as other interested community members. Tavis Smiley discussed the Ten Covenants which are covered in his book: Securing the right to healthcare and well-being; Establishing a system of public education in which all children achieve at high levels and reach their full potential; Correcting the system of unequal justice; Fostering accountable community centered policing; Ensuring broad access to affordable neighborhoods that connect to opportunity; Claiming our democracy; Strengthening our rural roots; Accessing good jobs, wealth and economic prosperity; Assuring environmental justice for all; closing the racial digital divide.

The assembly was intended to spark a movement and bring all persons who believe heavily in the idea together. At the latter half of the assembly individuals were given the opportunity to state personal testimonies. Following the assembly staff of ICJI contacted the church to make them aware of efforts currently taking place and to seek a possible collaboration opportunity. Staff is still awaiting a response from the church.

June 7, 2006: Office of Faith Based Initiatives

As mentioned previously, ICJI staff has been utilizing all resources and opportunities to attempt to collaborate with at least one faith-based entity but has been unsuccessful. A meeting was scheduled with Dave Liebel of the Office of Faith-Based Initiatives to learn about other congregations that may be of more interest to participate on the Indiana Disproportionality Committee from other areas than Central Indiana. The meeting was successful and Mr. Liebel was very interested in passing along the work of the Committee and sharing with pastors, bishops, and reverends across the state. Follow-up has been made and ICJI staff is awaiting the “next steps” phase which include meeting with interested individuals to provide them with a more in depth overview of ICJI and IDC efforts.

June 12, 2006: Conference Call (IU CEEP)

In agreement with Indiana University's Center for Education Evaluation and Policy component a conference call was held with two of the Research Associates that are managing the data collection and analysis requested by ICJI in regards to disproportionality. The conference call provided an update for ICJI staff and provided the researchers to state their needs from Gottlieb and Wertz. Progress is being made, however a meeting will need to be scheduled between ICJI, IU CEEP and Gottlieb and Wertz. This will be to ensure that IU CEEP has necessary access to the data information so it can be extracted from the database to be used in reports. Contact has been made to Mr. Wertz of the business to set up a meeting date for all three entities.

June 14, 2006: Indiana Disproportionality Training (Government Center)

As a result of interested members of the Indiana Disproportionality Committee wanting another training opportunity an additional training session was scheduled prior to the large committee meeting at the Government Center. An additional ten members were trained to be facilitators for future focus groups. In the group of ten we had two new comers to the group, a representative of Indiana Commission on African-American Males (ICAAM) and Indiana Civil Rights Commission. The training was very informative and various discussions addressing definition of terms, topics covered, and action steps were heavily weighed.

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